December 28, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As 2009 comes to a close and 2010 approaches, I wish to address an issue that has become problematic for me in trying to accomplish some of the goals outlined in your student’s GIEP. The enclosed documents are in reference to the Gifted Seminar for students in grades 10, 11 and 12.

The Attendance document shows a summary of student attendance by grade level. It also includes assignments that were to be completed outside of Seminar time and the percentage of completion.

The Attendance Guidelines document explains expectations for Seminar attendance and assignments. The expectations have been in place since the start of Seminar sessions in October and were shared with the students. Since then, I have verbally reminded students, posted reminders on a hallway whiteboard by the Gifted Room, sent notes via their homeroom period and even handed out Gifted “Report Cards” (Session #5, week of 11/12/09). As you can see from the figures, attendance continues to decline; communication regarding attendance and missed work has not improved.

As a result, I have discussed these issues with both High School and District Administration and we have agreed to continue to apply the attached guidelines and implement the follow-through measures beginning January 4, 2010. Discipline measures, such as academic detention, can be avoided if these guidelines are appropriately followed.

My goal during Seminar is to offer the students learning opportunities that will improve their insight and knowledge of themselves, learning and interactions with others. I try to keep my lessons and activities practical and relevant to the students and their situation. I understand the demands of their schedules and have been flexible and reasonable in what I ask of them. My biggest disappointment from some has been their lack of communication and follow-through on responsibility. Ultimately, this lesson is the most crucial to later success in life.

I appreciate your support in reinforcing this lesson. Please feel free to contact me to communicate your questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Bruce K. Guenther

Gifted Education teacher

P.S. – further information regarding Gifted Seminar, session topics and assignments can be found on the Gifted Seminar page of the BHS Gifted wiki site: www.bhsgifted.wikispaces.com